

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application is in response to the amendment filed on November 17, 2009.
2. Claims 7, 26 and 32 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 5-8 and 24-41 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Timothy Dyll (Reg. No. 62,796) on February 10, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1:

A method comprising:

intercepting at an agent residing on a processor-controlled server a first request to grant a web service customer access to a first web service, the agent residing between the web service customer and the first web service and between the web service customer and a second web service;

collecting at the agent one or more authentication credentials of the web service customer;

determining at the agent whether the web service customer is authenticated and authorized;

if the web service customer is authenticated and authorized, at the agent:
granting the first request; initiating creation of a session and a session ticket; obtaining a session ticket ID for the session ticket; and

encrypting the session ticket ID and a public key into an assertion; intercepting at the agent a second request to grant the web service customer access to the second web service, the second request comprising the assertion and a signature associated with a private key; and

if the private key matches the public key in the assertion, granting at the agent the second request without reauthenticating or reauthorizing the web service customer.

Claim 7:

A method comprising:

intercepting at an agent residing on a processor-controlled server a request to grant a web service customer access to a first web service, the agent residing between the web service customer and the first web service and between the web service customer and a second web service, the request comprising an encrypted assertion and a signature associated with a private key, the encrypted assertion comprising a public key and a session ticket ID for a session ticket obtained prior to the request and in response to authentication and authorization of the web service customer for access to the second web service; and

if the private key matches the [a] public key in the assertion, granting at the agent the second request without reauthenticating or reauthorizing the web service customer.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1, 3, 5-8 and 24-41 are allowed.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior art on record either taken singularly or in combination teaches ***“encrypting the session ticket ID and a public key into an assertion; intercepting at the agent a second request to grant the web service customer access to the second web service, the second request comprising the assertion and a signature associated with a private key; and if the private key matches the public key in the assertion, granting at the agent the second request without reauthenticating or reauthorizing the web service customer”*** including all the other limitations recited in claim 1.
3. Independent claims 7, 26 and 32 includes similar limitations as recited in claim 1 are therefore also allowed for the same reason set forth above.
4. Dependent claims 3, 5-6, 8, 24-25, 27-31, 33-41 are also allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHEWAYE GELAGAY whose telephone number is (571)272-4219. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Shewaye Gelagay/
Examiner, Art Unit 2437

/Matthew B Smithers/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2437